

Anthropology 101

NM HED Area IV. Social and Behavioral Sciences Competencies

UNM Area 4. Social and Behavioral Sciences

Student Learning Objectives:

- 1) Explain the objectives and methods of the different subfields of anthropology (Competency 1)
- 2) Explain holism, comparativism and relativism (Competency 2, 3)
- 3) Describe biological and genetic unity of the human species and its evolutionary origins and sequences (Competency 4)
- 4) Describe the development of food production strategies and social complexity in human history (Competency 1, 4)
- 5) Apply anthropological methods to the study of human cultural diversity. (Competency 1, 2, 3, 4)

Assessment Questions:

Competency 1. Identify, describe and explain human behaviors and how they are influenced by social structures, institutions, and processes within the contexts of complex and diverse communities.

Throughout human history, truly isolated cultures probably have almost never existed; all societies have always had contact with others.

- *a. True
- b. False

When the text states that anthropology is holistic, it means that:

- a. anthropology is the study of things that are holy
- *b. anthropology studies all aspects of human culture
- c. anthropology is the study of the human brain
- d. anthropology is intrinsically linked to biochemistry

In anthropology adaptation is considered:

- a. the way people view others around them who are different
- b. a theoretical perspective no longer thought to have any value
- *c. the process by which organisms (including humans) cope with social and environmental stresses
- d. how we re-wire the brain to perceive new phenomena

The process by which a child learns her or his culture is:

- a. ethnocentrism
- b. subculture
- c. national culture

*d. enculturation

In anthropology, we think of culture as:

- a. unchanging sets of rules to which individuals conform in a given society
- b. genotypic responses to environmental pressures and conditions
- c. valuable expressions of high art such as poetry, theater, and sculptured.
- *d. dynamic behaviors and bodies of knowledge that are socially shared and individually variable

Broad spectrum foragers food gathering activities:

- a. were ecologically balanced because they “lived lightly on the land”
- b. led to resource depletion
- c. tended to sustain and even increase food resources as a conservation effect
- d. were in general inferior to agriculture

Early agricultural practices

- a. were developed in response to climate change
- b. resulted from a series of accidental “discoveries” and unintended consequences
- c. led to better nutritional intake
- d. produced much more food than broad spectrum foraging

Areas where early intensive agricultural practices were developed

- a. clustered in river valleys because of the rich soils and access to water
- b. experienced stable climactic conditions
- c. were the same areas where early Homo sapiens sapiens populations first evolved
- d. have not been adequately excavated and remain poorly understood

If a society were to have relatively equal distribution of wealth

- a. none of the other vectors of inequality would be present
- b. all social relations would be harmonious
- c. differences in status and prestige could potentially still be present
- d. people would live nomadically and have very basic technology

For 99% of our history, humans have lived as

- a. foragers
- b. horticulturalists
- c. intensive agriculturalists
- d. factory workers

Slash and burn farming is a good example of

- a. intensive agriculture
- b. agro-pastoralism
- c. horticulture
- d. foraging

Hunting is seen as an important factor in human evolution because

- a. it may be a factor in the development of sexual division of labor
- b. it requires complex social cooperation seen in humans
- c. it may be a factor in the development of male parental investment
- d. all of the above

The main characteristic that sets Australopithecines apart from other ape-like primates is

- a. bipedalism
- b. larger brain
- c. tool use
- d. culture

The earliest domesticated animals were

- a. pigs
- b. sheep
- c. cattle
- d. dogs

Which of the following is a human universal?

- a. Prohibition of homosexual marriages.
- b. The use of “click” sounds in language (e.g., !., /, ≠) like the Ju/hosani “bushmen” of southern Africa.
- c. Prohibition against eating pork.
- *d. Recognition of at least one form of marriage involving a long-term union between a man and a woman.

Hamilton’s Rule states that an altruistic act makes evolutionary sense if the cost (in terms of fitness) to the actor is less than:

- a. The square root of (-9) multiplied by r (the proportion of genes shared by the recipient and his or her child..)
- *b. The relatedness (r , the proportion of genes shared by the actor and the recipient) times the benefit (in fitness) to the recipient.
- c. The benefit (in fitness) to the recipient divided by the relatedness (r , the proportion of genes shared by the actor and the recipient).
- d. Any integer between 0 and 1,000,000.

In which kinship system do you call all of your aunts and uncles mothers and fathers and all of their children your brothers and sisters?

- a. Omaha kinship system.

- b. Iroquois kinship system.
- c. Eskimo kinship system.
- *d. Hawaiian kinship system.
- e. Sudanese kinship system.

What kind of marriage system & what form of relation between the sexes is common in societies in which females produce almost all of the food (for example, many horticultural societies)?

- a. Monogamy with little conflict between the sexes.
- *b. Polygyny with little conflict between the sexes.
- c. Polyandry with little conflict between the sexes.
- d. Polygyny with strong conflict between the sexes.
- e. Polyandry with strong conflict between the sexes.

Competency 2. Articulate how beliefs, assumptions, and values are influenced by factors such as politics, geography, economics, culture, biology, history, and social institutions.

Cultural diffusion is:

- a. The historical process by which the people in a culture inherit all of its customs, practices, beliefs, and techniques from their biological ancestors.
- b. Almost identical to the process of genetic inheritance in humans.
- c. The only process by which a culture can change over time.
- *d. The process by which practices, beliefs, customs, or other aspects of culture spread between neighboring societies.

What conditions encourage the evolution of paternal investment in offspring?

- *a. Offspring must be unlikely to survive without the father's help and he must be confident that they are actually his offspring.
- b. Offspring must be able to survive without the father's help and he must have many mating opportunities with additional females.
- c. Offspring must have a moderate chance of surviving without the father's help and he must have many opportunities to mate with different females.
- d. Offspring must be able to survive without any help from their father and he must have low confidence that they are really his offspring.

Cultural relativism describes an ideal in which anthropologists try to:

- a. Actively engage with other cultures to make them less different relative to European and American culture.
- b. Severely criticize beliefs that differ from the anthropologists' own practices
- *c. Understand each culture on its own terms.
- d. Help cultural exchange by comparing one culture relative to another one.

Ethnocentrism is:

- *a. the tendency to view one's own culture as superior
- b. the tendency to view one's own culture as inferior
- c. the belief that genetics determines one's ability to learn within a culture
- d. the belief that all members of a nation belong to the same sub-culture

Attitudes concerning sexual norms vary between:

- a. different countries of the world today
- b. urban and rural communities in the U.S.
- c. 1950s America and 1970s America
- *d. all of the above

Marriage serves to:

- a. socially recognize the union of two or more people

- b. regulate sex by defining acceptable partners
- c. reduce disruptive sexual competition
- *d. all the above

In foraging and in politically simple tribal societies the amount of status attached to an individual often depends on:

- a. rank ascribed at birth to their wives and children
- *b. personal achieved attributes, such as wisdom, leadership skills, and generosity
- c. the amount of cash one has
- d. the number of wives one has

Which of the following terms refers to the tendency to view “less-developed countries” as more alike than they are?

- a. ethnocentrism
- *b. underdifferentiation
- c. overinnovation
- d. ethnobias

The idea that human history consists of a series of stages of improvements in the quality of life and the degree of civilization is

- a. colonialism
- b. cultural relativism
- c. progressivism
- d. positivism

The anthropological approach that attempts to explain the diversity of cultural practices in terms of hidden or non-apparent benefits to the society is called

- a. functionalism
- b. progressivism
- c. relativism
- d. astigmatism

Which of the following is not a sub-field of anthropology?

- a. archaeology
- b. ethnology
- c. linguistic anthropology
- d. sociology

The primary beneficial function of cousin marriages is often:

- a. it insures you will marry a genetic relative
- b. it keeps property or inherited wealth in the family
- c. it allows you to marry someone you already know really well
- d. all of the above

High levels of adult lactose tolerance is found in human populations in

- a. Japan, China and Southeast Asia
- b. Western Asia, North and South America
- c. Europe, East and West Africa and the Arabian Peninsula
- d. Polynesia, Australia and Southeast Asia

Gorillas, chimps and bonobos all experience 5-10 years of childhood learning about the correct behavior in their environment through a process of experimentation, social learning and play. As with humans, the process by which behaviors and norms are learned is called: _____.

- a. enculturation
- b. socialization
- c. environization
- d. none of the above

Cave art, the carving of ivory and bone for objects such as sculptures and beads, and the burial of individuals with many objects can be best described as indicating:

- a. agriculture
- b. the development of complex forms of symbolic thought or symbolism
- c. the spread of Neanderthals throughout Europe
- d. the beginnings of religion

Violent conflict among Mesolithic broad spectrum foragers:

- a. simply did not occur
- b. resembles violent conflict among early farming peoples
- c. was likely the result of interpersonal jealousies and conflicts
- d. was if anything more intense than among farming populations

Changes in language

- a. always determine cultural changes
- b. can lead to the creation of new languages
- c. may be related to cultural changes
- d. both B and C

In China, the practice of polygyny before 1949 was associated with:

- a. dowry, and egalitarian relations between the wives of one man
- b. dowry, patrilineality, and a corresponding preference for sons over daughter
- c. patrilineality and bridewealth
- d. patrilineality, partible inheritance and inequality between wives

Competency 3. Describe ongoing reciprocal interactions among self, society, and the environment.

The gorilla-like or chimpanzee-like level of sexual dimorphism present in early hominins suggests that their social system was:

- a. Polyandrous or monogamous like tamarins and marmosets.
- b. Mostly monogamous, like modern humans.
- *c. Polygynous, with intense conflict between adult males.
- d. Solitary.

What is “subsistence intensification”?

- a. The shift to planting MORE crops that require LESS work to grow, harvest, and process.
- b. The shift to herding animals that eat crops someone else grows.
- *c. Having to work harder and longer to get food.
- d. The trend toward spicier and spicier food since the Neolithic.

What effect did the shift to sedentary life and agriculture have on human health?

- a. It had no effect on health (there was no change from the health of hunters and gatherers).
- b. Health got better.
- c. Health was poor in both hunter-gatherers and early agriculturalists, but improved substantially with the later switch to intensive agriculture.
- *d. Health got worse among sedentary agriculturalists due to more parasites and face-to-face transmission of contagious diseases.

Religions that place the greatest emphasis on ancestor worship are common in:

- a. Egalitarian hunter-gatherer societies.
- b. State-level societies in which great harm or benefit can come to people as a result of powerful rulers’ actions.
- c. Ancient European tribes and nowhere else.
- *d. Agricultural or pastoral societies in which a person’s lineage determines property rights.

Which of the following factors make cultural transmission UNLIKE genetic inheritance?

- a. Cultures that descend from a common ancestral culture tend to resemble each other in many cultural practices and language (e.g., the French, Italians, and Spanish all speak similar languages derived from Latin, have legal codes derived from Roman law, etc..)
- *b. Aspects of culture can be learned from individuals not related to you by blood (lateral transmission).

- c. Culture or cultural practices can change in an individual's lifetime and those changes can be passed on to offspring (e.g., changing attitudes toward children born outside of marriage in American society over the last 50 years).
- d. Children obtain their culture, language, and cultural practices from their parents.

A person who tries not to judge another culture solely on the basis of his/her morality and culture is_____.

- a. ethnocentric
- b. relativistic
- c. normalistic
- d. monoistic

Studying the artifacts left by the Homo sapiens sapiens populations of the Upper Paleolithic can tell us:

- a. about the ways they harvested food
- b. about their use of symbols
- c. about their trade networks
- d. all of the above

Monumental architecture, whether it is built by foraging peoples or agricultural peoples:

- a. might have had many different meanings that are difficult to determine
- b. is always associated with ritual sacrifices
- c. helps us to understand the origins of religion
- d. did not develop until the introduction of bronze tools

In distinction to many arguments made in textbooks:

- a. foragers have always lived in bands
- b. social organization and the strategy by which people obtain food are always linked
- c. depending on the richness of the habitat foraging peoples could develop a variety of different forms of social organization
- d. bands were the first form of social organization

The frequency and persistence of homosexual behaviors among bonobos indicates:

- a. that bonobos and human beings are more than likely less related than chimps and humans
- b. that bonobo females prefer to mate with the most aggressive males
- c. that homosexual interactions have presented certain evolutionary advantages for bonobos within their environment
- d. that bonobos are not as evolutionarily successful as chimps

With increasing technological differentiation, specialization, and efficiency, humans have become increasingly adaptable, making Homo, in terms of numbers and geographical ranges inhabited, the most successful primate by far.

- *a. True
- b. False

The mechanism of genetic evolution that involves changes in gene frequencies as a result of differential adaptation to environments is known as

- *a. natural selection.
- b. mutation.
- c. random genetic drift.
- d. gene flow.

Which of the following is a term that refers to the rapid spread or advance of one culture at the expense of others, or its imposition on other cultures, which it modifies, replaces, or destroys?

- a. Symbolic domination
- *b. Cultural imperialism
- c. Cultural conquest
- d. Colonialism

Which of the following describes the offspring of an area who have spread to many lands?

- *a. Diaspora
- b. Enculturation
- c. Acculturation
- d. Indigenization

Which of the following best describes sedentism?

- a. Living off wild plants in the environment
- b. Living in a capital-based exchange society
- c. Living in mobile social units
- *d. Living in permanent settlements

The use of modern foragers, horticulturalists and intensive agriculturalists as models for the way people carrying out such subsistence patterns in the past is called

- a. ethnographic analogy
- b. moralistic fallacy
- c. progressivism
- d. cultural relativism

Consanguineal relations are:

- a. relations by acquaintance
- b. a relationship by marriage
- c. a relationship by common descent
- d. relations by chance meeting

Monogamy as a marriage pattern tends to occur where:

- a. women produce most of the resources needed for household maintenance
- b. people are more civilized
- c. male contribution to the household is critical for offspring survival and/or success
- d. the society has a history of pastoralism

Animism

- a. is the practice of eating only animal foods
- b. a way of speaking emphasizing pitch to differentiate meaning
- c. is found only in polytheistic religions
- d. is the belief that things in nature are inhabited by spirits

In Israel, boys and girls who grow up in the same *kibbutz*

- a. often end up marrying each other
- b. almost never end up marrying each other
- c. usually end up leaving the country
- d. usually go into religious professions

Endogamy means

- a. marriage outside a defined group
- b. marriage within a defined group
- c. self-absorption of body parts
- d. the practice of eating your dead ancestors

Competency 4

In studying the effects of changing environmental and technological factors on culture and human behavior, anthropologists often use

- a. the experimental method
- b. armchair speculation
- c. educated guessing
- d. the comparative method

The statement, "Since our hunter-gatherer ancestors sometimes practiced infanticide, it's probably OK for us to do too" is an example of...

- a. holistic behavior
- b. the naturalistic fallacy
- c. uniformitarianism
- d. the comparative method

One of the principal drawbacks of first cousin marriages is

- a. there is a slight chance of medical or developmental problems associated with inbreeding
- b. your family's wealth will be split up
- c. there will be arguments about whose surname the child should take
- d. you will never meet any new people

Genetic diversity in human populations tends to

- a. increase with distance from the African continent
- b. decrease with distance from the African continent
- c. is pretty similar all over the Earth
- d. corresponds closely with racial categories

Which is the best definition of cultural relativism?

- a. the study of culture from a historical perspective
- b. trying to understand cultural behaviors in context of the society and environment where they occur
- c. a theory of the origin of human language
- d. describing a culture from firsthand experience

Which of the following is NOT a general trend in hominin evolution?

- a. greater reliance on cultural means of adaptation
- b. increase in the quantity, variety, and quality of tools
- c. increase in cranial capacity

*d. decrease in the overall geographic range of hominins

Which of the following is arguably the only group of primates that are NOT endangered or soon to be endangered?

- *a. humans
- b. orangutans
- c. gorillas
- d. all primate species are currently endangered

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Which of the following fueled the European "Age of Discovery"?

- a. A desire to save the souls of local peoples
- *b. European commercial interest in exotic raw materials
- c. Pilgrims fleeing persecution in their European homelands
- d. Feudal kingdoms of East Asia reaching out to establish trade links with Europe

Which of the following is the hominin group(s) that colonized the Americas?

- a. H. erectus and H. sapiens sapiens
- b. H. erectus
- *c. H. sapiens sapiens
- d. Neandertals and H. sapiens sapiens

Which of the following is true about comparativism:

- a. It is one of the three primary tools used in anthropological inquiry
- b. It means not judging another society by a priori standards
- c. It means comparing cultural phenomenon across time and space to make generalizations
- d. Both a and c are true

While Neandertals' massive body size and certain traits such as the cranial brow ridge at one time led paleontologists to conclude that they had been less intelligent than H. sapiens sapiens, this is no longer considered accurate because:

- a. Neandertal tools were far more sophisticated than the tools used by H. sapiens sapiens during the time period when the two species co-existed
- b. Neandertal brain size was in some cases larger than the brain size of H. sapiens sapiens

- c. Neandertals behaved in symbolic ways and buried their dead in a deliberate manner
- d. both b. and c. are true

3. Between 2.5 and 1.5 mya there may have been four or five different hominid species living on the East African savannas. There is only one species of hominid today because:

- a. the Homo genus successfully exterminated the australopithecines
- b. there were multiple causes which are still not well understood
- c. climate change wiped out all of the hominids except for Homo genus
- d. Australopithecines migrated to other continents

The global migration of Homo sapiens sapiens during the Upper Paleolithic:

- a. explains the development of different "races" among human beings
- b. potentially has much to do with the genetic unity of the human species
- c. demonstrates how Homo sapiens sapiens used culture to adapt to new situations
- d. both b and c

The ecosystems where today's great apes currently live are threatened by:

- a. overpopulation of the apes
- b. anthropological studies
- c. wars, deforestation, and mining
- d. conflict between ape groups

True or False: Modern, industrialized civilization is in no danger of suffering a collapse similar to that of the Classic Maya or other ancient civilizations because we have an unlimited source of energy in fossil fuels.

- a. True
- *b. False

The "conquest theory" for the origin of states proposes that:

- *a. States arise from despotic groups of elites that dominate their own society, then begin to menace and ultimately conquer their neighbors.
- b. Once territories or peoples that are the sources of wealth are conquered, the conquerors make no attempt to protect them from other expansionistic states.
- c. Conquest is only possible once an irrigation system has been organized; the extra people that can be supported by irrigation are essential for conquests.
- d. Conquered territories and peoples benefit from the egalitarian ideas that tend to be common in expansionistic groups; the Assyrian conquest of the kingdom of Israel provides a good case in point.

Binford & Flannery's "Marginal Zone Theory" for the origin of agriculture states that plants and animals were domesticated:

- a. This is a trick question – the Marginal Zone theory is about the origin of state-level societies.
- b. After the Ice Age when people, plants and animals were forced together into oases as the climate became drier.
- c. In the zones where the wild ancestors of the species grew or lived.
- *d. In zones just outside of where the domesticated species' ancestors had lived.

Assessment procedure

At the end of each term, all students in each section of Anthropology 150 will take an online exam consisting of five questions randomly drawn from each of the four competencies, for a total of 20 questions. The average grade for each competency will be collated by members of the undergraduate committee. The committee will report the grades to the Anthropology 150 professors, who will then meet to evaluate the results. The professors will identify the competency with the lowest average score, and will work together to develop curricular changes to improve instruction.